

CAPE ARGUS

Tonight

Editorial derekw@ctn.independent.co.za

Monday May 17, 2004

DJ Fiona back home and happy

FIONA FURY, the P4 radio (104.9fm) weekend breakfast (6am to 9am) DJ is any journalist's dream interviewee.

You ask her one question and she fills a cupful with delicious stories like a frothy cappuccino, nearly always overflowing.

"I actually had to give up coffee a few months ago because with too much caffeine in my system I'd not only talk too much, everything would come out almost unintelligibly fast," laughs Fury.

And the laughs continue throughout the interview. Fury does not believe in following the flock: she admits to having a naughty streak and she simply loves to laugh and sing. In fact, after she matriculated she trained as a singer and took drama lessons.

"Of course my teacher thought I would be a good soprano and all I wanted to do was sing from the soul like an Aretha or a Nina Simone," she says. "These days the only singing I do is in the shower," she adds, laughing.

Her sincere bubbly personality comes from the gut as she tells of her stints as club DJ both here and in London.

"That's where it all started: with the DJ-ing. I played all over London, mostly at gay clubs. Loved it.

"But, as I neared the age of 30 I thought 'You can't hang around nightclubs every weekend 'til the early hours of the morning for the rest of your life, Fiona.'"

RAFIEK MAMMON

This, after she was regularly flown to Sweden to play at one of the prestigious nightclubs there because by some stroke of luck they had heard one of her recorded CDs on which she mixed a set.

Her responses to many questions come in quippy yarns and sharp, often dry retorts - ones that do not, however, detract from her obvious intelligence.

"This kind of lifestyle (club DJ-ing) can so easily give too much of a false sense of who one is.

'SA music has a certain honesty and sincerity'

The egos are huge," says Fury.

At this point, this dynamic woman who has in her time tried many things - from life-saving to modelling, from acting to reflexology, from teaching art to learners with learning difficulties to sport coaching and physiotherapy - recalls her need to come back to South Africa.

Those pursuits, however diverse and however they may have fitted her personality at the time, didn't fulfil her. While in London, she stayed in many

places, never really finding an inner peace and this was when she realised how much she missed Cape Town.

"This will always be my home," she says proudly.

So, last year, she packed her belongings in London and with no job prospects here, came back to live in the Mother City, playing at clubs again, mostly for free, just to get a foot in the door, knowing that it was towards radio that she was heading.

A two-month stint at Good Hope FM late on Saturday nights followed, but the thought of late nights in clubs again was not what she was looking for.

Persistence won the day as she hounded P4 radio for a job.

"When they eventually gave me the opportunity I was overjoyed. I started with the weekend breakfast show about seven months ago and I am still here. Listenership for my show is up by 76%. Yeah ..." she smiles.

In addition to her regular P4 slot, Fury also does voice-over work for television and radio.

She is mad about South African music and loves the fact that DJs have to play a certain percentage of local music on their shows: "South African music is just so real, so from the gut. It has a certain honesty and sincerity that a lot of other music lacks."

And those words "honesty" and "sincerity" seem to linger with me.

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rr! P4 DJ Fiona Fury is mad about South Afr